

dà		where is?
ìwě' mī dà	Ìwe mī dà?	Where are my books?
		Lit: What became of my book?

B

wà		[is located] to exist
wọ̀n		they
ìlẹ̀		floor, ground, [soil]
wọ̀n wā nǐlẹ̀	Nwọ̀n wà nǐ ilẹ̀.	They are on the floor.

A

dà... sílẹ̀		to spill, to pour on the floor, ground
tāló dà' sílẹ̀	Taní o dǎ sílẹ̀.	Who spilled them on the floor?

B

ẹ̀gbọ̀n		senior sibling
ẹ̀gbọ̀n' rẹ̀	Ẹ̀gbọ̀n rẹ̀.	Your brother.

B. NOTES

1. n plus most vowels becomes l.

Compare the casual and deliberate forms:

kílôjǒ rā	kínī òjǒ rā
tāló...	tānī ó...
wọ̀n wā nǐlẹ̀	wọ̀n wā nǐ ilẹ̀

These are further examples of the alternation of n and l- in Yoruba.

2. Possessives for first singular and second singular.

Compare the forms:

ìwě	'book'
ìwě̀`mī	'my book'
ìlù	'drum'
ìlù̀`mī	'my drum'
òbẹ̀	'knife'
òbẹ̀̀`mī	'my knife'
ìwě̀̀`rẹ̀	'your book'

The elements that correspond to 'my' 'your (sg.)' are most conveniently symbolized in writing as `mī and `rẹ̀, respectively. That is, they involve a lengthening of the preceding vowel, with low tone on the second part of that vowel; this lengthened vowel is then followed by mī or rẹ̀.

3. Notice that the subject pronoun for third person plural subject, wón, has high tone, just as the third singular subject pronoun has.

C. Exercises.

1. Possessives, first singular and second singular

a.	òkọ́	'spade'	òkọ́̀`mī	òkọ́̀̀`rẹ̀
	ìlára	'okra'	ìlárà`mī	ìlárà̀`rẹ̀
	òkẹ́	'lge. bag'	òkẹ́̀`mī	òkẹ́̀̀`rẹ̀
	ìwě	'book'	ìwě̀̀`mī	ìwě̀̀̀`rẹ̀
b.	ẹ̀pọ̀	'oil'	ẹ̀pọ̀̀`mī	ẹ̀pọ̀̀̀`rẹ̀
	ìṣū	'yam'	ìṣū̀̀`mī	ìṣū̀̀̀`rẹ̀

	òbẹ́	'knife'	òbẹ́`mī	òbẹ́`rẹ́
	ìbõn	'gun'	ìbõn`mī	ìbõn`rẹ́
c.	ẹ̀yìn	'palm nuts'	ẹ̀yìn`mī	ẹ̀yìn`rẹ́
	ìyọ̀	'salt'	ìyọ̀`mī	ìyọ̀`rẹ́
	ẹ̀wù	'shirt'	ẹ̀wù`mī	ẹ̀wù`rẹ́
	ìlù	'drum'	ìlù`mī	ìlù`rẹ́

2. 'What?' questions, contracted vs. uncontracted.

(ẹ́ gbà)	kílẹ́` gbà	kíní ẹ́`gbà
(ẹ́ rà)	kílẹ́` rà	kíní ẹ́`rà
(ẹ́ tà)	kílẹ́` tà	kíní ẹ́`tà
(ò tà)	kílò` tà	kíní ò`tà
(ò rà)	kílò` rà	kíní ò`rà
(ò gbà)	kílò` gbà	kíní ò`gbà
(ó gbâ)	kíló gbâ	kíní ó gbâ
(ó rá)	kíló rá	kíní ó rá
(ó tâ)	kíló tâ	kíní ó tâ
(wọ̀n tâ)	kíní wọ̀n tâ	kíní wọ̀n tâ
(wọ̀n rá)	kíní wọ̀n rá	kíní wọ̀n rá
(wọ̀n gbâ)	kíní wọ̀n gbâ	kíní wọ̀n gbâ

D. Supplementary material: Some nouns used in talking about locations.

òrí	'head, top'
ínú	'stomach, inside'
tábilí	'table'

ìbùsùn 'bed'
 àpò 'pocket'

1. ìwě̀' mī̀ dà
 àpòtí wọ̀n wá lórí àpòtí
 tábilí wọ̀n wá lórí ̀tábilí
 ìbùsùn wọ̀n wá lórí ìbùsùn
 àgā wọ̀n wá lórí àgā
2. òwó̀' mī̀ dà
 àpòtí ó wá nínú àpòtí
 ìwě̀ ó wá nínú ìwě̀
 tábilí ó wá nínú ̀tábilí
 (in a drawer)
 ọ̀kọ̀ 'vehicle, car' ó wá nínú ọ̀kọ̀
3. òwó̀' rẹ̀ dà
 ìlé ó wá nílẹ̀
 àpò ó wá lẹ̀pò̀' mī̀
 ìlẹ̀ ó wá nílẹ̀

UNIT 10

A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'I tore my book.'

A

fà

draw, stretch

yā

tear, rend